

An Important Message from Jennifer Toth, Deputy Director of Transportation

Cycle Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility in May ... and All Year Long

Whether the cycle you ride is propelled by human power or a motor, it is your month for increased safety awareness. Even if you don't ride a motor- or bicycle, this month's safety tips are equally important to you to help prevent crashes, reduce injuries and save lives on our roadways.

May 2013 is **National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month**. Also this month, pedal-cycle enthusiasts are participating in **National Bike Month**.

By the Numbers in the U.S.

- 675 = People killed in bicycle crashes a year
- 55 = Percent increase in fatal motorcycle crashes since the early 2000s
- 300,000= Children who end up in hospital emergency rooms annually because of bicycle-crash injuries
- \$14 billion = Annual economic toll of motor- and bicycle/pedal-cycle crashes
- 1 = Wearing a helmet is the No. 1 way to prevent death and traumatic brain injuries whether you're riding a motorcycle, bicycle or pedal-cycle.

Share the Road ... and Responsibility

Safety is a shared responsibility between motorcyclists, bicyclists and other drivers.

If you're a cyclist, remember these tips:

- **Ride correctly by riding right.** Ride on the right side of the roadway in the same direction as other traffic. For cyclists, the No. 1 safety risk is wrong-way bicycling.
- **Ride defensively.** Don't assume that vehicle drivers will see you or know how to drive safely around you. Use caution and expect the unexpected.
- **Get noticed.** Bicyclists who ride at dawn, at dusk or after dark should make themselves noticeable. Under Arizona law, a bicycle used at nighttime is required to have a lamp on the front and a red reflector on the rear. A red taillight is recommended, as well as reflective tape or markings on equipment or clothing.
- **Be bright.** All cyclists should wear brightly colored clothing so they're easy to spot.
- **Wear a helmet.** Motor- and bicyclists should always wear a proper-fitting helmet every time they ride. Wearing a helmet is the No. 1 way to reduce cycle-related deaths and traumatic brain injuries.

If you're a driver, remember these tips:

- **See cyclists.** Look twice to spot motorcyclist and bicyclists, especially at intersections, when changing lanes and when pulling out of driveways. Remember that because they're smaller, you might not see them in blind spots.
- **Share the road.** Avoid crashes with motor- and bicyclists by paying attention and using caution.
 - If you're passing a bicyclist who is heading in the same direction, you must leave a safe distance (no less than three feet) between your vehicle and the bicyclist until you have safely passed.
 - Don't follow cyclists too closely, and remember that they need extra time to stop.
 - Did you know motorcyclists often downshift instead of applying the brakes and activating a rear brake light when slowing down? When driving behind a motorcycle, allow a four-second space cushion to avoid a rear-end collision.
- **Use extra caution around kids on bicycles.** Children are more likely to make unexpected moves, such as darting into the path of vehicles or losing their balance. If you see children on bikes, simply slow down, pay attention and be ready to stop.

Bicycle Safety Resources

- Check out "[Arizona Bicycling Street Smarts: Riding Confidently, Legally and Safely](#)" on the ADOT website at azbikeped.org/azbss.htm.
 - ADOT also provides a document titled "[Share the Road: A Guide for Bicyclists and Motorists](#)." Find it on the ADOT website at azbikeped.org/images/adot%20STR061208.pdf.
 - Need to [talk to your kids](#) about bike safety, including why they need to wear a helmet every time they ride? Visit kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html.

Motorcycle Safety Resources

Read ADOT's [Motorcycle Operators Manual](#). It's available on line at azdot.gov/mvd/driver/mcmanual/mmanual.asp.

The nonprofit [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) (MSF) urges all motorcycles to get trained and licensed, to wear a helmet and protective gear all the time, to ride unimpaired by alcohol or other drugs and within their skill limit, and to be a lifelong learner by taking refresher courses. The MSF also provides safe-driving tips for motorists and motorcyclists, as well as training information. Visit online2.msf-usa.org/msf/Default.aspx.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. T. R.' or similar, written in a cursive style.